



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1st OF 21 GUILTY CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a methamphetamine conspiracy. Today's sentencing, Graves said, marks the first sentencing in a case involving 21 convicted co-defendants from Missouri, California and Florida.

Matthew G. Stansbury, 25, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 23, 2004, **Stansbury** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004. **Stansbury** also agreed to a forfeiture count of the federal indictment, agreeing to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif.

Stansbury is among 21 co-defendants to plead guilty to their role in two conspiracies to distribute methamphetamine and launder funds generated by the distribution of methamphetamine to promote the continued distribution of methamphetamine and disguise the ownership of the proceeds.

Christopher L. Earley, 27, **Matthew R. Klussman**, 29, **Jason M. Butler**, 29, **Guy A. Girratono**, 27, **Rickie T. Atagi**, 34, and **Joshua L. Drummond**, 25, all of Independence, Mo., **Ronald Wayne Younger**, 33, and **Garrett L. Johnson**, 41, both of Blue Springs, Mo., and **Spencer La Key**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., **Timothy A. Gorman**, 26, of Sugar Creek, Mo., and **Casey L. McElroy**, 33, Excelsior Springs, Mo., each pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004.

Additionally, out-of-state residents **Ivan M. Tofiga**, 29, of Corona, Calif., **Juan Ramon**

Perez, 28, of Glendora, Calif., **Peti Nofoagia Iosua**, 38, who is incarcerated by the Florida Department of Corrections, and **Laurie J. Pazienza**, 23, and **Matthew S. Stewart**, 28, whose addresses are unknown, also pleaded guilty to their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Tofiga, Perez, Iosua, Younger, Key, Pazienza, Girratono, Gorman, Stewart, Johnson, McElroy, Earley, Drummond, Klussman, Atagi and **Butler** also agreed to a forfeiture count of the federal indictment, agreeing to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including approximately \$1 million and property located in Corona, Calif.

Tofiga, Perez, Noel Joseph Cruz, 30, of Duarte, Calif., **Janet Castillo Martinez**, 31, of San Diego, Calif., **Iosua, Younger, Johnson, McElroy** and **Elizabeth Ann Corley**, 23, of Kissimmee, Fla., also pleaded guilty to their role in a money laundering conspiracy. By pleading guilty, they admitted to conspiring to launder money between Dec. 1, 2000, and April 22, 2004.

Tofiga, Perez, Cruz, Iosua, Younger, Johnson, McElroy and **Corley** agreed to a second forfeiture count of the federal indictment, agreeing to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of their involvement in the money laundering conspiracy.

Jason C. Highley, 26, pleaded guilty to a superseding information, admitting that he maintained a place of residence for the purpose of distributing, using and manufacturing methamphetamine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Corona, Calif., Police Department and the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow